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Lewis S. Rosenstiel (right), president of Schenley Industries, as he testified yesterday on the need for legislation to control

electronic eavesdropping. At left is Louis Nichols, executive vice president of Schenley.

Industrial Snooping: Soviet, Domestic Style

FBI Agent Warns Industrialists Here Against Red Spies

By Larry Weekley
Washington Post Staff Writer

An FBI agent told industrial executives here yesterday that Soviet agents are conducting a vacuum-cleaner operation in the United States to gather technological and scientific information.

He cited estimates that 70 per cent of the Soviet and satellite diplomats assigned to Washington or the United Nations have espionage assignments.

"They are interested in literally everything and will use every possible technique to secure data," he said. "They are willing to spend large sums of money quickly for information they think may lead to classified data."

Addresses Tool Makers

The FBI speaker was Fern C. Stukenbroeker, a special agent assigned to internal security work. He addressed the spring meeting of the National Machine Builders Association in the Mayflower Hotel.

The machine tool industry is a "glittering and attractive target" for Soviet espionage, Stukenbroeker said, through its strategic position as the maker of tools used to make defence and consumer products.

He said Soviet agents are exploiting "the vast reservoir of scientific and technological information" in the United States and told the industrialists that "you probably don't realize how much Soviet agents would like to gain access to your files and your confidential information."

Much of the information gathered by the agents is contained in public documents, Stukenbroeker said, "and they

have as much right as anybody else to collect public documents in our free country."

Soviet agents hope the vacuum-cleaner will lead them to classified information, "the real pot of gold at the end of the espionage rainbow," Stukenbroeker said. He said the industrialists and their employees may be Soviet espionage targets—especially if they have access to classified information and also have some personal weakness that could make them vulnerable to blackmail.

He said Soviet diplomats and deep-cover espionage agents—"refeathered in Moscow" with false identities—love to attend technical and scientific conventions, collecting brochures and exchanging business cards in the hope of developing a "friendship for a purpose." These agents also make frequent trips to American military bases and industrial plants, taking photographs, Stukenbroeker said.